

Message Text

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66

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06

EPA-04 CEQ-02 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /087 W

----- 073457

R 211806Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9468

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 7448

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SENV, SCUL, BE

SUBJECT: SPOKANE EXPO 1974

1. EMBASSY WAS INFORMED EARLIER THIS WEEK BY BARBASON OF ECONOMICS MINISTRY THAT ECONMIN'S RECOMMENDATION FOR BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE HAD, TO HIS SURPRISE, BEEN TURNED DOWN BY THE CABINET LATE LAST WEEK. HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE REASON FOR CABINET ACTION. WE URGED ON BARBASON AND LATER ON COESEN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT EFFORT BE MADE TO REVERSE THIS DECISION OVER WHICH WE EXPRESSED STRONG DISAPPOINTMENT.
2. DURING COURSE OF CALL ON ECONOMICS MINISTER CLAES ON DECEMBER 21, THE AMBASSADOR TOOK ADVANTAGE OF MINISTER'S EXPRESSED DESIRE TO FIND SOME WAY TO DRAMATIZE U.S./BELGIAN TIE BY URGING THAT ONE GESTURE WOULD BE REVERSAL OF CABINET DECISION. THE MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS REGRET OVER DECISION WHICH WAS NOT POLITICAL BUT RESULT OF POSITION OF SCIENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTERS THAT BELGIUM HAD NOTHING TO DISPLAY WITHIN THE THEME OF THE EXPOSITION.

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3. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED THE MINISTER THAT THE POSITION

OF THESE MINISTERS WAS INCORRECT AND THAT THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY
ITSELF HAD SOME EXCELLENT IDEAS ON THAT SCORE. THE MINISTER
AGREED AND PROMISED TO TRY ON AN URGENT BASIS TO HAVE
THE CABINET DECISION REVERSED.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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